

The Goodwill Messenger

Published by the Village Church of Cummington

Ministry: All of us

Church Office: 634-5508

Service 10:00 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays

Editor & Graphics: John Maruskin • Reporting & Mailing: Pat Keith

Volume LXXII, Number 2 • March, 2022 • P.O. Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026

cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here

Pastor's Message

CANDLE AT THE WINDOW

Peace is the world smiling," sings an old song, but I hear something different now. "Peace is the world crying." We cry together, we care together.

At the last service I held up a porcelain cup and spoke of the custom at Coming to the Well to place names for prayers inside it. We added the name of Bruce (Kathy and Bruce Harrison's son), and his wife Victoria. We added Masha, Natasha, Lydia, Nikolai, Valentina from the Ukraine. We join the outcries for global sanity.

Women from the Ukraine, Russia and the US have been connecting formally and informally on behalf of peace. Here is one such connection.

On Christmas Eve some of you met Anne and Tom Yeomans who read poetry at the service. Tom had attended the Greenwood Music Camp as a teenager and co-founded the International School in St. Petersburg, Russia. Anne has trained circles of women for thirty years including in Russia and now continues that training on zoom in Russia.

This week, Anne exchanged letters with a Russian colleague that are so poignant I'd like to share one with you. I feel they are weaving a counterbalancing web and network for peace.

Here is the heartfelt letter from Anna, a Russian therapist and mother:

Time of Transitions

From Josh: Last month was a month of transitions. On February 2, Sarah Stockwell-Arthen helped us celebrate the cross-quarter day of Imbolc, which is a time of "pregnancy" and hidden growth in the still dark but subtly quickening time of mid-winter, with an outdoor fire ceremony.

On February 6, the congregation met for our first Annual Meeting since before the pandemic. We were so pleased to re-confirm Rev. Sarah Pirtle as our minister, Josh Wachtel as our Community Coordinator, and Melody Sanislo as our new Moderator.

The leadership circle came to a consensus to return to in person worship this Sunday, March 6 after a winter break. We will meet in the sanctuary, practice social distancing and ask people to continue wearing masks. An air filter will be used and windows cracked to increase ventilation. We'll re-evaluate guidelines again for our service on Sunday, March 20.

In other good news, we have found a childcare provider, Susan Warner from Worthington, who will be available to spend time with our children during services starting this month.

We hope you will be able to join us!

I woke up yesterday to the beautiful rays of the sun shining into my bedroom, opened the curtains and saw the rising sun, I felt that spring is coming and the blossoming of life, and then I opened the phone and saw what happened while I was sleeping. I saw that my nightmare happened. My country attacked a neighbor, a brother...Yesterday I was in shock, I cried a lot, I talked with my friends... It was hard to believe what happened.

I am scared for the people of Ukraine, I pray with all my heart that the hostilities end as soon as possible. And I am also very scared for us, for the Russian people, who did not want and do not want war. I'm scared that we are all now merging into a single image of an aggressor against whom the whole world opposes. I really want to tell you and I ask you to tell everyone with whom you will talk that not all Russians support the war. There are more of us who want peace than it might seem. We want peace. We want to live in peace.

Anna's words are echoed in a Russian peace song that I learned forty years ago from a Russia woman when I was a presenter at a peace conference. It begins, "Poost siegda boodyet solntsi" which translates in English to "May there always be sunshine."

We sing out in tears and join the worldwide voice crying out for sanity.

—Rev. Sarah Pirtle

Here is a song of peace sung by Ukrainian children:

Here is the link to it: <https://www.youtube.com/eRAWDBVapA>

Quaker Meeting

The next meeting at The Village Church is scheduled for Sunday 27 March at 10 AM. We will see what pandemic conditions are then before making a final determination.

Friday Night Café

Hi All, We are planning for the coming Summer Season of the café. The outdoor Summer 2022 season kicks off May 27. We can't wait...

Best, John and Peg

For personal, church needs or questions please contact one of the Deacons, John Maruskin at 634-5320, Kathleen Knox at 634-8041, Josh Wachtel at 634-5005 or leave a message at the church 634-5508.

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 413 320-6544. The church charges a very nominal fee for upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!

Goodwill Messenger
P.O. Box 76
Cummington, MA 01026

Digital GWM

As we are concerned about keeping expenses low for the church, the GWM is going to go entirely digital in the next issue. It cost's over 100 dollars an issue to send print copies. And as lately there is not that much news, it seems prudent to end the print copies. We would ask people getting print copies to send us email addresses so we can continuing delivering the church news in that fashion. If you do not use a computer and need a print copy let us know and we will work something out.

The digital copies will be free, but we appreciate any donation to the church for this service.

Thank you.

Mailing: P.O. Box 76, Cummington MA 01026 (letters, notices and donations)

Email: vchurch@cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Church office: 413-634-5508

The Goodwill Messenger, deadline for the April issue is March 26. Any personal news, an event, a business to promote with a paid advertisement or anything else worth noting please send to John at mrbllooz@verizon.net or Pat at patakeith@gmail.com, mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM located in the back entryway of the Village Church. Please be sure to include all the details, and a contact number in case we have questions.

